

January 9, 2005

Dear Saints,



Rev. Jackie Bernacchi

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We have a double header today, Epiphany and the Baptism of our Lord. At the Epiphany the Gospel tells the story of 3 eastern nobles who, led by some kind of astrological movement, travel to see the great King of Jews. They bring him gifts that remind us of the baby's royal status — gold, frankincense and myrrh — gifts fit for a king. This was the symbolic manifestation of Christ to the world and it is an important statement of God's intent to have the world known and loved by Christ. The Baptism gives us another glimpse into the Christ's manifestation, as he makes his first adult move toward the cross. To die for our sins, Jesus first accepted the undeserved role of humanity in penitence which he does with his baptism. It is the odd combination of the king and the penitent that we celebrate and explore today, this third Sunday after Christmas. ja+

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